

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 01549 040924Z

43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /140 W

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R 040822Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0381

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1549

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, BM, VS

SUBJ: BURMESE OFFSHORE

OIL NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A. RANGOON 858 (NOTAL);

B. RANGOON 826 (NOTAL); C. SAIGON 1346 (NOTAL)

1. ROBRAY DRILLING SERVICES PTE. LTD. IS SUBSIDIARY OF  
ROBRAY OFFSHORE DRILLING CO. LTD. WHICH INCORPORATED IN  
HONG KONG DEC. 15, 1972. SINGAPORE SUBSIDIARY IS DE FACTO  
MAIN OFFICE. DIRECTORS OF ROBRAY DRILLING SERVICES ARE NEVILLE  
FERGUSON AND RAY WILLIAMS, BOTH FORMERLY WITH READING & BATES.  
THEY ARE EXPERIENCED AND RESPECTED IN THEIR FIELD. EMBASSY  
BELIEVES ROBIN S.K. LOH IS PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL BACKER.  
AMCONGEN HONG KONG MAY BE IN BETTER POSITION TO DETERMINE  
U.S. PARTICIPATION IN COMPANY.

2. IN JANUARY 1974 ROBRAY DRILLING SERVICES PROPOSED TO  
GVN TO BRING IN TWO RIGS WITHIN 2-3 MONTHS IF THEY WERE GIVEN  
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PAGE 02 SINGAP 01549 040924Z

OFFSHORE AND ONSHORE CONCESSIONS NEAR MEKONG DELTA. THEY

OFFERED TO PAY \$6 MILLION FOR GVN'S SEISMIC DATA AND TO IMPLEMENT A FOUR-YEAR EXPLORATION PROGRAM. TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE OFFER NOT ACCEPTED. EMBASSY SAIGON MAY HAVE FURTHER COMMENTS ON THIS.

3. ROBIN LOH IS ALSO IN OFFSHORE RIG CONSTRUCTION AND LEASING BUSINESS THROUGH ROBIN SHIPYARD PTE. LTD.

4. ROBINA OIL CO. (ALSO IN LOH'S GROUP) IS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CITIES SERVICE FOR EXPLORATION CONCESSION IN INDONESIA.

5. ROBIN LOH HAS BUILT AN EXTENSIVE EMPIRE ENCOMPASSING REAL ESTATE, SHIPPING, SHIPBUILDING, RETAILING AND AIR CHARTER SERVICES IN ADDITION TO HIS INTERESTS IN PETROLEUM FIELD. MOST OF HIS COMPANIES HAVE BEEN BUILT ON CREDIT WHICH IS READILY AVAILABLE ON HIS PERSONAL GUARANTEE. HIS PAID-UP CAPITAL IS USUALLY NEGLIGIBLE. SINGAPORE BRANCH OF CHASE MANHATTAN BANK REPORTS PAID-UP CAPITAL OF ROBRAY OFFSHORE CO. LTD. IN HONG KONG IS APPROX. HK \$1 MILLION.

6. WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING DEROGATORY ABOUT ROBRAY, BUT EMBASSY AGREES THEY DO NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY EXPERIENCE, ORGANIZATION AND RESOURCES TO HANDLE EXPLORATION ON THEIR OWN OF BULK OF BURMESE OFFSHORE AREA (PARA 2 REF C). HOWEVER SUN OIL, CITIES SERVICE AND ROBRAY GROUP MAY WELL PROVIDE ALL NECESSARY INGREDIENTS TO CARRY OUT SUCH AN UNDERTAKING. BELIEVE DEPT AND OTHER ADDRESSEES BETTER ABLE TO COMMENT ON ACTIVITIES OF CITIES SERVICE AND SUN OIL.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 APR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974SINGAP01549  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740075-1120  
**From:** SINGAPORE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 90  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** A. RANGOON 858 (NOTAL);  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 JUL 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BURMESE OFFSHORE OIL NEGOTIATIONS  
**TAGS:** ENRG, BM, VS, ROBRAY DRILLING SERVICES  
**To:** RANGOON  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005